

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended): A method of collecting data from a storage server comprising:

scanning a directory on the storage server;

determining a number of child nodes in the directory, and adding the number to a reference count;

scanning a child node to collect information about the child node, and combining, concurrently to said scanning a child node, the information collected by said scanning into a summary of the directory; and

reducing the reference count after scanning the child node; and  
storing the summary of the directory.

2. (Currently amended): The method of claim, further comprising:

wherein said storing the summary of the directory comprises writing the summary to a database server.

3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein scanning a child node comprises using an agent separate from the storage server to scan the child.

4. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein writing the summary comprises writing the summary to a multi-appliance management application (MMA) before writing the summary to a database server.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein scanning a directory comprises using a directory thread to scan the directory, and wherein scanning a child node comprises using a file thread to scan the child node.

7. (Original): The method of claim 2, further comprising accessing the summary using a graphical user interface (GUI).

8. (Currently amended): The method of claim 2 7, wherein accessing the summary using a GUI comprises accessing the summary over a network using a web browser.

9. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising scanning another directory once the reference count is equal to zero.

10. (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

    a storage server having a mass storage device;

    an agent coupled to the storage server, the agent to concurrently scan the mass storage device[[,]] to collect information about a file stored on the storage server, and to

combine the information collected into a summary of a directory in which the file is located; and

a database server coupled to the server and the agent to store the summary.

11. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the storage server is a filer.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a multi-appliance management application (MMA) coupled to the storage server and the agent, the MMA to manage the storage server.

14. (Original): The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a graphical user interface (GUI) coupled to the MMA.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the agent has a first file system different from a second file system of the storage server.

16. (Currently amended): A machine readable medium having stored thereon executable program code which, when executed, causes a machine to perform a method of collecting data from a storage server, the method comprising:  
scanning a directory on the storage server;

determining a number of child nodes in the directory, and adding the number to a reference count;  
scanning a child node to collect information about the child node, and combining, concurrently to said scanning a child node, the information collected by said scanning into a summary of the directory; and  
reducing the reference count after scanning the child node.

17. (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 16, further comprising:  
writing the summary to a database server.
18. (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein scanning a child node comprises using an agent separate from the storage server to scan the child node.
19. (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein writing the summary comprises writing the summary to a multi-appliance management application (MMA) before writing the summary to a database server.
20. (Canceled).
21. (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein scanning a directory comprises using a directory thread to scan the directory, and wherein scanning a child node comprises using a file thread to scan the child node.

22. (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 17, further comprising accessing the summary using a graphical user interface (GUI).

23. (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein accessing the summary using a GUI comprises accessing the summary over a network using a web browser.

24. (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 16, further comprising scanning another directory once the reference count is equal to zero.

25. (Currently amended): A method of collecting data from a file server comprising:

- scanning a directory on the file server;
- determining a number of child nodes in the directory using a directory thread operated by an agent;
- adding the number of child nodes to a reference count;
- scanning a child node in the directory using a file thread operated by an agent to determine information about the child node;
- concurrently to said scanning a child node, combining the information determined by said scanning into a summary of the file server using the agent;
- reducing the reference count after scanning the child node; and
- storing the summary on a database server.

26. (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the agent is controlled by a multi-appliance management application (MMA).

27. (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein the MMA generates a graphical user interface (GUI).

28. (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein the summary is written to the MMA before storing the summary on the database server.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Original): The method of claim 25, further comprising scanning another directory once the reference count is equal to zero.